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CHAD

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

U.S. foreign assistance priorities in Chad focus on enhancing democratic governance and political legitimacy, as well as dealing with the rapid evolution of regional developments since 2001. U.S. strategic goals include addressing the humanitarian emergency resulting from the Darfur crisis and reinforcing regional security in order to resolve that crisis, promoting a more legitimate polity by implementing an electoral reform process to ensure credible elections in 2010 and 2011, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and promoting sustainable development through health and agriculture programs.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The Darfur crisis continues to destabilize Chad. While the United States Government (USG) works to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict through the President's Special Envoy to Sudan, J. Scott Gration, and through Post's diplomatic efforts with Darfur rebel leaders in an effort to advance peace in Darfur, a massive multi-donor humanitarian relief effort has continued since 2004 to assist and stabilize a Sudanese refugee population of 268,000 and an internally displaced Chadian population of 171,000.

USG funding has:

- Provided humanitarian assistance to eastern Chad totaling \$187.2 million in relief programs: \$133 million in food aid and \$54.3 million in grants to United Nations agencies, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who carried out programs in health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and food security, protection, and logistics
- Supported peacekeeping forces stationed in eastern Chad, assigned the task of protecting humanitarian workers and vulnerable populations, with \$180.8 million in security assistance

- Funded the Peace Through Development project making solid achievements in the areas of youth empowerment through vocational training and increased access to information via youth-produced radio programs

Governing Justly and Democratically

Prior elections were flawed, and the last round was boycotted by the opposition. However, in August 2007, the ruling party and the opposition reached an agreement on the ground rules for future elections, opening the door for opposition re-engagement in the electoral process. With local and national elections planned for 2010 and 2011, Post will be working with other donors to encourage Chad's political leadership to conduct credible elections.

The USG:

- Participated in funding Chad's second demographic census (the first was conducted in 1993), a precondition for the political opposition's participation in the next electoral cycle. The census was successfully completed in June 2009. Population data obtained from the demographic census will form the database for an electoral census, which is the next major step to be taken leading to elections planned for 2010 and 2011.
- Will continue to have a seat on two of the bodies created to monitor and manage the electoral process, and will remain actively engaged and able to contribute to specific funding requirements.

For good governance to take hold in Chad, a long-term effort is required to change attitudes. Education in good governance should start at an early age in order to instill basic concepts of rights and responsibilities of citizens living in pluralistic societies. Post has engaged with the Education Ministry since 1999 in developing a civic education curriculum for grades 1 through 12 in Chad's schools, leading to the local production of textbooks that are now being used throughout the country. In FY 2009, this resulted in the printing of 49,000 civic education textbooks in French and Arabic, to be added to the 34,700 textbooks Post funded in 2006.

Resources used for this civics education program do not appear in Post's foreign assistance budget, as they were obtained from central bureau programs.

Investing in People

Mortality rates in Chad for children under five years of age are among the highest in the world (194 out of 1,000 with a Millennium Development Goal of 64 out of 1,000). The principal causes are diarrhea, malaria, and upper respiratory infections. Maternal mortality is 1,099 per 100,000 live births, with a Millennium Development Goal of 275 out of 100,000. According to Chad's Health Minister, the national rate for maternal mortality is becoming worse. U.S. bilateral budget resources allocated to health programming in FY 2009 contributed to the host country's efforts to address these staggering mortality rates by focusing on nutrition, potable water, and health education.

The current five-year Food for Peace Title II project, which funds mother-child health activities, started in January 2008, with the first wheat flour consignments arriving in January 2009. While project activities during this initial implementation phase were modest, an important baseline survey was completed and the following tangible outputs obtained:

- 61 villages (2,076 participants, including 1,492 women) were provided water hygiene education and point-of-use water purification techniques

- 1,209 children under 5 years of age received Vitamin A
- 295 newborns received essential newborn care
- 52 Village Nutrition Educators were trained in nutrition basics
- 19 birth attendants from 10 villages were trained in monitoring pregnancies, detecting risk, and assisting women during childbirth
- 18 field agents were trained in the techniques of child growth monitoring, nutrition surveillance, and the administration of micronutrients
- 61 villages benefited from micronutrient distribution and growth monitoring sessions

U.S. resources also contributed to decreased morbidity and mortality of Chad's population through the Global Fund against AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis. The Centers for Disease Control, working with the World Health Organization, has been actively involved in providing technical oversight for vaccination programs. A significant portion of U.S. humanitarian relief for refugees and internally displaced persons in eastern Chad is devoted to health sector and water supply activities implemented by NGOs.

Economic Growth

Chad's population is 80 percent rural, comprised mostly of subsistence farmers who depend upon the arrival of erratic rains falling on nutrient-poor soils in sufficient quantity to obtain a yearly crop of grain. U.S. bilateral resources allocated to the agriculture program area are generated from the sale of Food for Peace Title II food aid. Use of these sales proceeds is intended to address the high risk to agricultural production in Chad's semi-arid eastern and central regions by increasing access to water and improved farming technologies.

In addition to completing a baseline survey during this first year of project implementation, the implementing partner obtained the following tangible outputs:

- 3,511 farmers were trained in the production of seeds, compost making, and farming techniques
- 26.4 hectares of land were improved with the construction of mud dikes and small water retention structures
- Three community warehouses and five mini-warehouses were constructed
- 54 km of rural feeder roads were rehabilitated
- Four wells dug for vegetable gardening
- 275 demonstrations making use of improved seed and mixed-cropping techniques occurred in 45 villages
- 401 producers associations, water user associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations received assistance
- 35 women's groups were identified and provided training in animal husbandry

- 1,703 persons received literacy training, of which 1,134 were women

A special subset of activities was designed to help female-headed households rebuild their livestock resources by scaling up a traditional type of herd constitution in which vulnerable women receive a “seed herd” of small ruminants or poultry. After a cycle of production, the initial capital is revolved so that other women can benefit. Additionally, female-headed households were targeted for the improved technology demonstrations and for participation in food-for-work projects.